

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03300 121735Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PA-01 INR-10 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /062 W
-----110084 121741Z /41

O P 121611Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0035
INFO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/P AND PASS WHITE HOUSE MR HARDEN; USICA FOR AF;
ROME ALSO FOR FODAG; PARIS ALSO FOR OECD; DAKAR ALSO FOR BANJUL
AS APPROPRIATE

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN)
SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO THE SAHEL: MALI

REF: BAMA KO 3039

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT FOR REMARKS BY MILL LILLIAN AT RECEPTION
TO BE GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN (UNFM) THE EVENING
OF JULY 31:

2. MADAM PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE UNFM, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR WELCOME AND SAY WHAT
A GREAT PLEASURE IT IS FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU IN MALI ON PAN-
AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY. THIS IS TRULY A TIME FOR CELEBRATION, NOT
ONLY FOR THE WOMEN OF THIS GREAT CONTINENT BUT FOR WOMEN THROUGH-
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OUT THE WORLD. ON THIS OCCASION, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOU THE
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER AND
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

ALSO HERE WITH US TONIGHT IS A WOMEN WHO HAS LONG BEEN INTERESTED
IN SOCIAL QUESTIONS AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN -- THE TALENTED
ACTRESS SHIRLEY MACLAINE. SHE JOINS WITH ME IN CONGRATULATING THE

UNFM AND IN WISHING YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN YOUR WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF THE MALIAN WOMEN.

THIS AFTERNOON, I ATTENDED A NUMBER OF PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY FESTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF BAMAKO. THE ENTHUSIASM AND THE SPIRIT DEMONSTRATED AT THESE CELEBRATIONS WERE OVERWHELMING. I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT MALIAN WOMEN ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR PRIDE, DIGNITY, AND GRACE, AND IN THE PAST TWO DAYS I HAVE SEEN THESE QUALITIES WITH MY OWN EYES.

IN THE UNITED STATES, AS IN MALI, WOMEN HAVE ACQUIRED A GREATER INTEREST IN AND ARE TAKING INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY. MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE JOINING AND SUCCEEDING IN PROFESSIONS ONCE DOMINATED BY MEN. BUT, LIKE YOU, WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUES OF CHILD CARE, GOOD HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, EDUCATION, AND THE WELFARE OF THEIR SOCIETY.

I WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AS A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER ON A HEALTH PROJECT IN INDIA, SO I KNOW SOMETHING OF THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN LIVING IN RURAL AREAS. I KNOW THAT THE UNFM IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN IMPROVING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF WOMEN IN UP-COUNTRY VILLAGES, AND I APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS. I BELIEVE THAT, BY UNITING AND WORKING TOGETHER AS YOU HAVE DONE IN MALI, WOMEN CAN DO MUCH TO HELP THEMSELVES AND THEIR SOCIETY.

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SO TONIGHT, AS WE CELEBRATE THE UNITY OF AFRICAN WOMEN, LET US REMEMBER THAT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES SALUTE YOUR COURAGE, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL JOIN WITH ME IN PLEDGING TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR A BETTER LIFE, NOT ONLY FOR WOMEN BUT FOR ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. END DRAFT TEXT.
BYRNE

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